

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0307

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 08308

LIMDIS/NOFORN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, US, GW, UR, WB

SUBJECT: SOVIET DEMARCHE ON FRG FOREIGN MINISTER'S
ACCOMPANIMENT OF SECRETARY KISSINGER TO
BERLIN

REFS: A) USBERLIN 993; B) BONN 8041

1. AMONG THE CURIOUS ASPECTS OF THE SOVIET PROTEST
CONCERNING GENSCHER'S PRESENCE IN BERLIN IS THE USE OF
THE ABRASIMOV-GAUS CHANNEL, ONE NOT OFTEN USED FOR
DISCUSSION OF BERLIN ISSUES, FOR THE INITIAL SOVIET
DEMARCHE (REFTEL B). ONE EXPLANATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED
BY INFORMATION GIVEN US BY A RELIABLE SOURCE THAT
SOVIET AMBASSADOR FALIN CLAIMS TO HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED
TO DELIVER THE DEMARCHE IN BONN BUT TO HAVE REFUSED
(SIC) TO DO SO. FALIN REPORTEDLY TOLD THIS TO FRENCH
AMBASSADOR WORMSER, IN THE COURSE OF A CONVERSATION ON
OTHER MATTERS, TO ILLUSTRATE A REMARK TO THE EFFECT
THAT HE WAS HAVING "PROBLEMS" WITH MOSCOW. WORMSER
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HAD NOT AT THAT POINT BEEN INFORMED OF THE ABRASIMOV-

GAUS DEMARCHE AND WAS THUS IN NO POSITION TO DRAW FALIN OUT.

2. WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED PUZZLEMENT THAT FALIN SEEMED PERSONALLY TO BE INVOLVED IN THE ANTI-GENSCHER CAMPAIGN THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE FOR SOME TIME BEEN PROMOTING WITH THE PRESS AND AMONG GERMAN CONTACTS. IN ALL LIKELIHOOD FALIN HIMSELF HAS REALIZED, AFTER THE RESURGENCE OF THE FDP IN RECENT LAENDER ELECTIONS, THAT GENSCHER MUST BE CONSIDERED A FACTOR TO BE RECKONED WITH UNTIL 1980 AT LEAST AND HAS THOUGHT IT PRUDENT TO PULL BACK ON ACTIVITIES THAT ONLY IRRITATE THE FOREIGN MINISTER BOTH WITH THE SOVIETS IN GENERAL AND WITH FALIN IN PARTICULAR. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT FALIN DID IN FACT QUESTION INSTRUCTIONS TO WEIGH IN ON THE BERLIN TRIP, ON GROUNDS THAT DOING SO WOULD ONLY SERVE FURTHER TO STRAIN HIS RELATIONS WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER.

3. ON THE BROADER QUESTION OF WHY THE SOVIETS CHOSE TO MAKE AN ISSUE OF GENSCHER'S BERLIN TRIP, AND IN TERMS WHICH REQUIRED THEM TO CARRY THROUGH WITH THE REACTION THAT IS NOW BEING MANIFESTED, NEITHER WE NOR SENIOR FONOFF OFFICIALS HERE HAVE COME UP WITH A SATISFACTORY EXPLANATION. BECAUSE THE ABRASIMOV DEMARCHE CAME ONLY AFTER GENSCHER'S PLANS HAD BEEN MADE PUBLIC, THERE WAS NO CHANCE THAT HE WOULD CANCEL THE TRIP UNDER DURESS. FORCING A CHANGE OF PLANS IS NOT, TO BE SURE, THE SOLE OR EVEN THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE STEADY STREAM OF SOVIET PROTESTS AGAINST ALLEGED FRG VIOLATIONS OF THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT; MANY OF THEM SEEM AIMED SIMPLY AT BUILDING A RECORD AND PRESERVING POSITIONS. CONCEIVABLY THE SOVIETS HOPED IN THIS INSTANCE TO DRIVE A WEDGE BETWEEN GENSCHER AND THE CHANCELLOR OR BETWEEN THE GERMANS AND OURSELVES; IF SO, THEY APPEAR TO HAVE MISFIRED ON BOTH COUNTS, WHILE ONLY ANNOYING THE FOREIGN MINISTER IN THE PROCESS.
HILLENBRAND

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